

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CLARK COUNTY

JUNE 14, 2004 MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Ballou. Those present were: Doug Ballou, Bud Van Cleve, NE Hazel Dell, Ron Price, Susan Gilbert, Enterprise/Paradise Point; Lianne Forney, Clark County Public Information and Outreach; George Vartanian, Fairgrounds; Sam Kim, Brush Prairie; Dick Durland, Sherwood Hills; Holly Gaya, Clark County Public Information and Outreach; Art Stubbs, Green Meadows; Bridget Schwarz, Friends of Clark County; Patrick Lee, Clark County Long Range Planning.

Announcements:

1. Doug announced that the biannual reports from the Clark County Sheriff's Office were out and everyone should have received one. If not, contact Doug and he will get a copy to those who did not receive one.
2. There is an opening on the Drainage Improvement District Commission. Anyone interested, get resumes in by July 19.
3. There is a training session being held on Residential Building Code on Saturday, June 19 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Public Services Building. The RSVP's have to be in by June 16. CVTV is taping it so those who did not attend may pick up a tape.
4. Gary Bock of WSU Extension is sponsoring a "Naturally Beautiful Backyard" workshop.
5. Doug announced that he sent a letter to the BIA from the perspective of both his neighborhood association and as chairman of NACCC stating concerns about the environmental impact to the Ridgefield and La Center communities and asked the BIA to request a full EIS on the proposed development.
6. T-Mobile is erecting two cell towers, but neither location has a representative neighborhood association.

Clark County Web Page - LIANNE FORNEY

Lianne gave a presentation on the present status of the web site. She thanked Dick Durland for his continuing participation helping to work on problems and solutions to make the web site more user friendly. The main issue is that the website needs current information which is a huge issue and the county is taking internal steps to review the site. Lianne would like feedback from the community to help to make the site remain effective and up-to-date. Discussion ensued and we all agreed that we would bring it up in newsletters and at neighborhood meetings with our constituents and forward concerns on to Dick Durland. She also would like input on how to keep it easy to use.

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Lianne then discussed with us the 2005-2006 budget proposal. Each department in the county government must come up with three levels of decision packets. The packets would be for 5, 10, and 15% cuts and how the departments would handle the various percentages. She informed us that there were not many places to cut in PIO – it is basically all salaries and benefits. She wanted to give us a heads up that we may not have as many mailings handled by the county as we have in the past. She believes the BOCC is supportive of the neighborhood program and does not believe it will be cut. Art pointed out that most money is already earmarked, with very little discretionary funds and that the public is frequently not aware of this. Lianne believes the budget will be worked out by September.

Capital Facilities Plan – PAT LEE

Pat gave us a Capital Facilities analysis associated with the comp plan. The overview is that Clark County serves as coordinating role for all departments. They have reviewed all the information from service providers for major issues and potential increases. Some reports are still in draft form while others have not yet been heard from.

1. Water: This is the biggest issue. There is a need for additional water rights and where those possibilities may lie takes a long time. Vancouver Lake lowlands are being explored. There is also wrestling going on about new groundwater rights.
2. Sewer: Major issue is timing of expansion and improvements at Salmon Creek Waste Water Treatment plant. Expansion is targeted for 2007.
3. Storm Water: The major issue is retrofit. There are several ordinances dealing with storm water control.
4. Schools: Schools have submitted their facility needs and believe they can handle student growth. Battle Ground is in the worst shape because of significant increases in new students and lack of support for recent Bond measures.
5. Parks and Recreation: The major focus is on the unincorporated area where the county is looking into different measures to fund operation and maintenance since present funding structure (impact fees) only allows for land acquisition.
6. Police: A new 500-bed maximum facility is needed which probably will be funded through revenue bonds.
7. Fire: Most fire agencies feel they can handle the proposed planned growth.
8. Transportation: They have not heard from Battle Ground yet. A LOS reduction will be felt in every jurisdiction. Queuing at intersections is the big problem with LOS. Capital Facilities does not deal with the State highway system.

Early next week a report will be released giving the overview and conclusions. There will be a hearing before the BOCC for all service providers to present their reports. There will be an open house on June 30 at the Public Services Building, probably in the lobby, where exhibits will be displayed for the public to review and comment. There will be a second open house on July 8 at the Dollars Corner Fire Station from 4-7 p.m.

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NUSA Conference Report

Doug announced that the NUSA attendees will share their experiences in a short overview at the July 12th meeting due to not enough time on this agenda to cover the topics. The NUSA county attendees and those from the City of Vancouver will meet on June 30 to talk about key focus of neighborhood issues and where what they learned at NUSA conference can help our community. NACCC members will be updated as this joint project with city neighborhoods develops over the next several months.

On July 6, Doug and Holly will be meeting with the Battle Ground City Council to talk about discuss the value of neighborhood associations and how they would benefit from supporting and encouraging neighborhood associations.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS:

Art Stubbs: Many subdivisions are going in around the Green Meadows NA.

Bud Van Cleve: Boys and Girls Club fell \$60,000 short of their goal needed to complete the construction/remodel of the new club facilities located in part of the Hazel Dell Elementary building. They are selling bricks for \$50 to raise the needed funds. Bud can get forms for those who might like to buy a brick. Bud announced that TIPIT was again meeting to map out the next six year Transportation Plan and project priorities. No meeting has been set yet. If any NA has a road they want to be put in the plan, contact Bud.

WSU and Clark County has hired JD White Co. to study what is to be done with the WSU Research Farm on 78th Street. They will be looking for lots of public input.

PPL is doing some limb cutting in Tenny Creek. Bud has offered to park their equipment/dump chips in the park and the NA will use the chips for pathways if PPL will make a new pathway entrance for the public use off 94th Way.

July 14 is the first meeting about the volunteer code enforcement plan. It will be organizational in nature and Bud wants a plan put in place by September.

Ron Price – He announced that a couple of new subdivisions were going in.

Susan Gilbert – Susan announced that her NA has responded to the Cowlitz' EA with a letter and accompanying exhibits outlining the need for a full EIS on this proposed development. She announced that a very successful meeting was held on June 9 with the Washington, D.C. representative of the Bureau of Indian affairs in attendance. It was well-attended and informative. Now the waiting begins to see what happens with the BIA.

Bridget Schwarz – Bridget passed out the latest FoCC newsletter and announce that FoCC will be responding to the BIA on the Cowlitz EA.

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Sam Kim: Sam said that the final EIS is due out on the asphalt plant soon. They then will have two weeks and pay approximately \$1,000 to appeal. They are pooling their resources and plan to appeal.

George Vartanian: The 4th annual open house at the West Precinct fair is September 18. The amphitheatre traffic pattern is not in yet. He announced that there were four developments which had been “conditionally” approved by the Hearings Examiner. They are Huntingdon Manner, Peach Springs, Park Avenue Place, and Legacy Place. The total residences approximate 200.

County staff asked for a denial but the Hearings Examiner said “a conditional project approval is better than a denial” indicating that the project would be approved if County and State officials would agree to certain mitigations.

These developments demonstrate how developments are permitted knowing full well they are not appropriate. The justifications run the gamut from using traffic modeling that everyone agrees is inadequate but must be used because “that is what the county uses” to altering traffic flows on a street from two ways to one way for a portion of the roadway. A major contributing factor to the issue here is that 15th Ave. which was to have been built, has been postponed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gilbert, Secretary

Reviewed, edited and approved by Doug Ballou, Chairman, 6/16/04